



VOCATION CORNER

What are you looking for?

When we read scripture we hear God's voice because it is the very Word of God. In light of this, I'd like to propose the following passage for your consideration:

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day." (Jn 1:35-39)

Allow me to point out a few things:

1 Jesus saw them following — this should give us confidence that Jesus notices us and that He is aware of us and our needs. He simply waits for us to desire to truly follow Him and when this happens He will speak to our hearts.

2 He asks them directly "What are you looking for?" How often do we take the time to look into our own hearts and seek to discover what we truly long for? I'd say most of us would agree that we look to be loved, cherished, and accepted. Jesus wants us to think about what we are looking for, so that we will see that He is the answer to our longings.

3 They answer by asking to remain with Him. Remain close to the Lord to fulfill your call and obtain what your heart desires.

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations
Write to him at kromke@rockforddiocese.org.

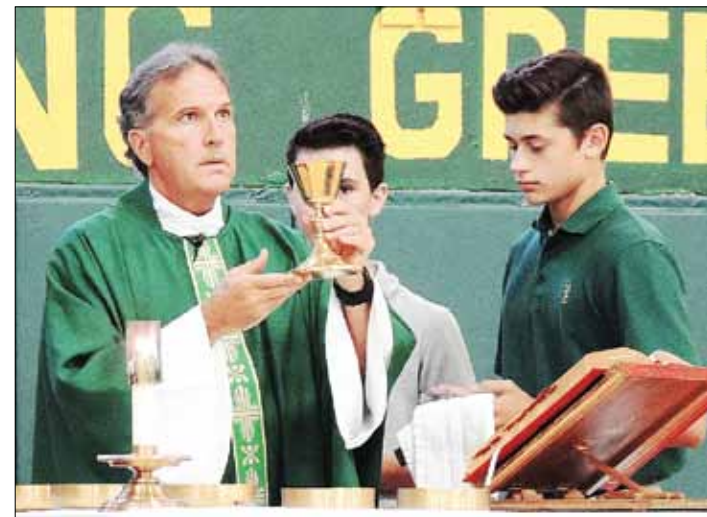
Share your 'Catholic life'

If you are a high school or college student who is interested in sharing your faith journey, tell us in about 250 words. Write about how you live your faith in the world. Talk about what being Catholic means to you.

Send your essay and a photo of yourself to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org. Put "My Catholic Life" in the subject line. Be sure to include your age, phone number (not for publication), school, parish and town.



(Photos provided)



In memory

Students at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin participate at Mass on Aug. 27. Father Edward Seisser, who was superintendent of the high school before his death on Aug. 17, was warmly remembered by Father David Peck (left), who offered the Mass for his intentions.

The City of Elgin also honored Father Seisser by adding a name to Dominican Way. It will also be known as Honorary Father Edward Seisser Way.

Indiana sisters invite visitors

Are you interested in learning more about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods? Are you looking for ways to serve God through works of love, mercy and justice, while breaking boundaries and creating hope?



(Photo provided)

Women visiting the Sisters of Providence take time for some lively singing and camaraderie.

Single Catholic women, 18-42, are invited to learn more about becoming a Sister of Providence during the fall discernment weekend, Oct. 16-18, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, 10 minutes northwest of downtown Terre Haute.

"If you are discerning religious life, the beautiful grounds of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods provide a peaceful atmosphere that will allow you to enter into solitude to pray more deeply, listen more attentively and respond more fully to God's movement within," Vocation Director Sister Editha Ben said.

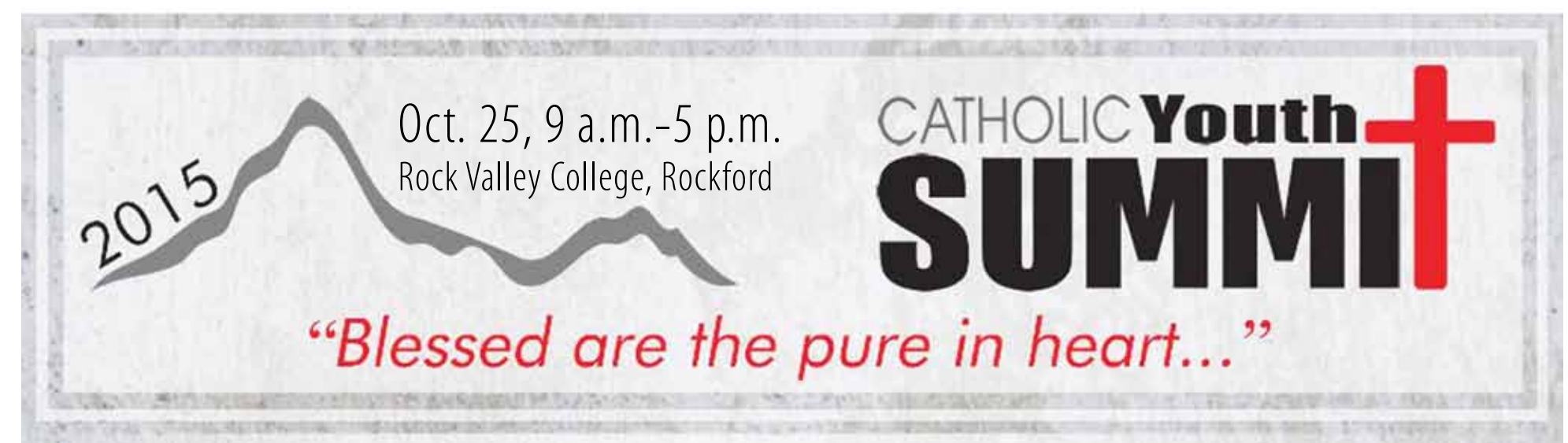
The visit, including housing and meals, is free.

Info: spsmw.org; Sister Editha, 812/535-2895, eben@spsmw.org



(Photos provided)

On Sept. 11, journalism students from St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin attended a remembrance event at the Elgin Civic Center. Students interviewed Dave Kaptain, Elgin mayor, and others who volunteered to work with the students.



Come one, come all

Third Catholic Youth Summit moves to RVC

New this year

"Are You Smarter Than a Bishop?" trivia game show with Bishop David Malloy. Youth teams will test their knowledge at the 2015 Catholic Youth Summit.



Mary Bielski is keynote speaker

Using funny stories and engaging analogies, speaker Mary Bielski will share the beauty of the Catholic faith and love for Christ with us. Born in Indianapolis, she is the youngest of five children. Underneath her active high school life, she wrestled with deep questions about herself, life and God.

In college, she says she at first "swayed back and forth between" the party scene and church. But the summer of her freshman year, she encountered the intimate love of Jesus and the call to live a life totally for Him. She added a second major, in theology, and began to serve in youth ministry. After working for six years, she left her job in 2009 and immersed herself full-time in ALL4HIM Ministries.

"Her prayer is that you will encounter the tender love of the Lord and be set free to live All for Him," says her website.

Just the facts

When: Oct. 25, registration from 9-9:45 a.m.

Where: Rock Valley College Physical Education Center, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford

Cost: by Oct. 13 — \$25 teens, \$15 chaperones (includes lunch and t-shirt); after Oct. 13 — \$30 teens, \$20 chaperones (includes lunch)

Info: www.RockfordDiocese.org/youthsummit

What's going on

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., music from Paul Vogrin and his band, "Arise," will lead into an opening prayer and introduction of keynote speaker, Mary Bielski.

Mass will be at 11 a.m., followed by lunch.

After lunch, confessions will be available. They will be provided by a large number of priest volunteers who will welcome participants and help them make a good confession, no matter how long it's been.

Music from Arise will bring everyone together and get them ready for "Are You Smarter Than a Bishop?" where youth teams will test their brain power and find out if they are smarter than Bishop David Malloy!

Mary Bielski will present a second talk after the contest, then Father Keith Romke will share some thoughts and get everyone ready for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — the "source and summit" of our faith.

Adoration will run until about 4:45 p.m., followed by closing songs, thanks and farewells.



Q I posted something online about somebody at school that wasn't very nice. I'm not sure how, but my parents found out and told me to take it down. I did, but now they want me to apologize to her. I still think she's the one who should apologize to me. What do you think I should do?

A Isn't it funny how parents always seem to find things out!

Maybe it doesn't seem too funny to you right now, but my hope is that eventually, when everything settles from this incident, that you'll realize that their finding out was the best thing that could possibly happen.

This goes along with what I tell people in confession all that time: "It's not fun to have to admit our weaknesses, but in the end confessing them and bringing them to the Lord is the only way that we will

be freed from them and as a result, find healing from them!" I think that your parents finding out is going to make it possible for you to bring the Lord into this situation as well!

In light of that, let me say that the first thing that you should do (since you took it down already — which of course was a good thing to do) is to go to confession and ask the Lord to forgive you for the harm that you caused to this other person. I think that the key to this whole thing is realizing that you yourself did something that in your own words "wasn't very nice."

Regardless of what someone else has done to you, and regardless of whether or not you feel that the person deserved it, or that they had it coming, nothing excuses responding in a negative manner. So the first thing to acknowledge and to accept is that you did something that wasn't nice, and of course when we do something along these lines, it is important that we apologize.

Nothing is more important than taking responsibility for our own actions!

In regards to your opinion that she's the one that should be apologizing, that may very well be true, but our ability to forgive shouldn't be dependent upon another apologizing or making up for what they have

done.

We are called to respond like Jesus did. When others persecuted Him, beat Him, mocked Him, and spit on Him, He didn't turn around and post nasty things about them on the Jerusalem message boards! He simply forgave them, even though they showed no remorse. He prayed for them: "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." Even if you know that she knew exactly what she did, you are still called to forgive.

My hope and prayer for you is that you will apologize and forgive her, because nothing is more freeing than forgiving another. When we hold onto anger or hurts, all that they do is cause us anxiety, stress, pain, and hardship.

In a sense we could say that as long as you remain angry and refuse to forgive, that she holds a certain power over you. If you choose to forgive, then you release this power that she has over your emotions.

So pray and ask God for the grace and the strength both to apologize and to forgive, because the sooner you do so, the sooner you'll find peace and be able to move on.

This month's YO Father question is answered by Father Keith Romke. Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org.

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